

# EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL'S PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

EDWARD MARSHALL KNOWS  
THAT THEY ARE TRUE BLUE.

## OF THE SPLENDID HEROISM OF THE SEVENTY-FIRST.

FLOOD OF PROOF THAT THE  
WORLD CHARGE IS A LIBEL.



### 71ST NEW YORK SHORTLY BEFORE THE ORDER TO GO INTO ACTION.

(From a photograph by J. C. Hemment, Journal special war photographer. Copyrighted, 1898, by W. R. Hearst.)

This photograph was taken as the gallant Seventy-first was making its way to the firing line, and not five minutes before they entered the actual engagement. They were going up to protect a battery which had been shelled out of its position on the ridge at El Pazo. Just before this they had been drawn up by the roadside impatiently waiting for the order to advance on the enemy. During this time they were put to the strain of seeing a continuous string of wounded, bleeding men brought along their front from the very position to which they knew they were to be sent. But in all this stress, and though they knew that with their old Springfield rifles and black, smoke-producing powder they would be fair marks for the Mausers of the Spaniards for at least 1,200 yards before they could get into a position to inflict any injury on the enemy, there was no sign of faltering or weakness. Their only inquiries were as to when they were to be sent into action and what was going on at the front. The positions of the men, as shown by the camera, indicate that they were cool and in good order.



### American Soldiers Bearing a Wounded Comrade

Photographed by J. C. Hemment, in front of the 71st Regiment.

A GOOD deal has been said recently as to the bravery of the Seventy-first New York in the fighting at Santiago. My personal experience with the Seventy-first went to show that the men were as brave as any at the front. On July 1, the first day of the battle, as our party was on the way to the battery stationed at El Pazo, we passed through the Seventy-first. The men were then drawn up at the side of the road, waiting the order to enter the firing line. This order came to them about five minutes after we passed, and I do not think that the nervous strain on the firing line itself is any greater than that of the position which the Seventy-first then occupied. The men knew they were going to be ordered forward. The wounded were being carried back in a continuous string right along their front, the regulars on stretchers, the Cubans on hammocks strung between poles, the Rough Riders being helped along by comrades. We took photographs at the time, and the pictures show just what the Seventy-first had to look upon during the shivery moments before being ordered into action. Under these circumstances the men of the New York regiment were cheerful, as well as brave. Their only questions, asked of the wounded and the men bearing the wounded, were: "What is going on at the

front?" and "When will we have a chance to get in?" There was not the first sign of an inquiry as to when they were going to be permitted to get out. Their Arms Inferior. It seems to me that these volunteers deserve particular credit for their bravery and firmness under the existing conditions. They were not properly fitted with weapons. Their guns were the old Springfield rifles and they had the black powder, the smoke from which makes the men firing with it exceptionally good targets for the enemy. They could not shoot effectively except at close range. I had no idea until I saw it in action against modern arms how obsolete a weapon is the old Springfield rifle. I heard it frequently stated in the army that the effective range of the Mauser rifle, with which the Spaniards are armed, is 2,000 yards. At the same time it was generally said that the range of the old Springfield rifle is about 800 yards, and I doubt whether it is effective at over 500 yards. That means that a man coming on with a Springfield is simply a harmless mark for 1,200 yards for the man with a Mauser, for he cannot hope to do any damage until he has penetrated to within the 800 yards limit of his Springfield range. Now, those men of the Seventy-first New York knew of this disparity of this great advantage the enemy had over them. They knew they were improperly armed. Yet their morale did not seem in the least disturbed by the knowledge, and during and after the fighting I heard nothing but

praise for them and for their fighting ability. Foreign Critics' Praise. I talked with several representatives of the different European governments attached to our army to study our fighting qualities, and whatever these trained soldiers said or did not say about the management of the campaign in general, about the workings of the commissary department, or concerning the scarcity of our artillery, they all spoke with one accord in enthusiastic praise of our men. There is not the shadow of doubt that

### SAW THE 71ST JUST BEFORE THE FIGHT.

The Boys Were Eager To Get on the Firing Line.

Asked Only When They Could Join the Firing Line.

every government represented on that battlefield has received reports from its representatives saying that the United States has to draw upon the finest fighting material in the world. However unprepared we may have been to go to war on a moment's notice, the fighting quality is splendidly developed in the men sent to battle. The foreigners admitted that this fighting quality was the best they had ever seen. Our men showed absolute courage to the point of indifference to danger and to death. And so far as bravery is concerned, the volunteers showed just as much of it as the regulars. Perhaps they should be accorded credit for even greater bravery, for they knew the inefficiency of their arms, and it certainly required some bravery to overcome that knowledge. Their Valor Noted. But during and after that great battle I never heard any questions as to the bravery of any man, any company, any regiment or any division. One man's knowledge of the art of war might make him a more efficient soldier than another, but each acknowledged the bravery of the other and the valor of all was the subject of general comment.



### Cubans Carrying Wounded to the Rear.

Photographed by J. C. Hemment, in front of the 71st Regiment.

So, having seen the Seventy-first during a time of trial and nervous strain, having observed their courage then, and having afterward heard no word against their fighting dash from either foreign attaches or their comrades in arms, I feel that any statements derogatory to their pluck do a grievous and unpardonable injury to men who have well deserved nothing but the applause and gratitude of their countrymen.

W. R. HEARST.

### BRONX BOYS' FRIENDS HEAR TRUE STORIES.

(From the Evening Sun, yesterday.) Charges of cowardice made by the World against the members of the Seventy-first New York Volunteers in the two days' fight before Santiago were publicly refuted last night at the meeting of the Seventy-first Regiment Auxiliary Society of the borough of the Bronx, held in Suburban Club Hall, Park avenue and One Hundred and Seventy-sixth street. After the entire audience had sung "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," which they were standing, the chaplain, the Rev. Charles W. Millard, delivered a prayer, in which he

gave thanks for the manner in which the lives of the members of the Seventy-first Regiment had been preserved in the face of the greatest danger. "We are glad to know," said Chaplain Millard, "that in their hour of great peril our boys did not shrink their duty, but fought bravely and made such a good showing. We are glad to know that among the men who stood for us in the heat of battle there was not one coward." One of the most interesting features of the evening was the reading of letters which had been received by various members from their relatives at the front. Most of these letters were dated July 4, 5 and 6. None of the letters contained any details of the surrender, because that happened after their letters were mailed, but even as early as July 6 all the letters foreshadowed an early surrender, because they all agreed that the Spaniards were completely surrounded, and that it was but a question of time when it would be necessary for them to give up the fight.

### Soldierly Brevity.

Owing to the scarcity of writing paper in camp some of the letters were models of terseness. "The Seventy-first was right in it from the start," wrote Sinclair Kirby on July 4. "For the first part of the morning of July 1 we did not do much fighting, because we were not close enough, but about noon we got into firing lines and we made things warm. I shot forty-five rounds of ammunition, and succeeded in picking six of the rascals out of trees. If anybody tells you that the Spaniards don't know how to fight, you tell him that he doesn't know what he is talking about." Some members of the Seventy-first, evidently with a view to quieting the fears of their parents, dwelt upon the humors of the campaign rather than its dangers. One of them told how, although there was plenty of water, there was little accommodation for washing. "I haven't washed my face for four days," said the soldier. "But in that respect I am not lonesome." Another letter told of how, when the boys of the Seventy-first Regiment were charging up the hill at San Juan, they were ordered to throw away all superfluous equipment. They threw their packs on the ground, intending to go back for them after the fight, but when they got a chance to look for their discarded packs there was not a pack in sight. They had been taken away, and ever since that the boys of the Seventy-first had been travelling light.

### In the Thick of It.

Jerold Stern, another Bronx member of the Seventy-first, wrote: "The Seventy-first was in the thick of

the fight and gave a good account of themselves. Lieutenant Trull, of Company G, who had been invited by the society to address the meeting, appeared with his right arm in a sling. He said he was pleased to have the letters read, because some of the letters contained later detailed information than he possessed. He was wounded early in the fight on July 1, and was not able to tell much of what happened after that. Mr. Trull then told of the experience of the boys from the Bronx in getting the first four boxes of goods consigned to them at Tampa from the Auxiliary Society. Among the many good things to eat which the women had sent were several corned beefs. "Of course, we appreciated the generous spirit which prompted the ladies to send it to us," said Mr. Trull; "but, speaking candidly, the boys were very much amused at the judgment of the women in sending corned beef to men who had been living for many days principally on corned beef." Mr. Trull made no mention in his public address to the slurs which had been cast upon the members of the Seventy-first by the World's charges of cowardice. When he had finished and the members of the society were asking him questions about the condition of the Bronx boys in Cuba, some one asked President Stern why Lieutenant Trull had not referred to the World's outrageous charges. "Lieutenant Trull," said President Stern, "does not consider it necessary to say anything more on the subject. He refuted those slanders in church last night. He knows that there is not a person in this hall to-night who would believe the World's disgraceful attack on our boys, and it would only be lending dignity to the World for this society to listen seriously to a refutation of anything in its columns. Personally, I would not believe anything which the World said against the integrity of the boys of the Seventy-first." To a group of young persons who gathered about him after the meeting had adjourned, Lieutenant Trull said, in answer to some of their inquiries about the World's slanders: "It isn't necessary for me to say anything in defence of the boys of the Seventy-first. The regulars who fought with us that day are testifying to the bravery and courage of the Seventy-first. In due

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With the Army and Navy Around Santiago.—The Journal's special photographer has taken more than one hundred splendid photographs of all kinds of thrilling incidents at the seat of war. The best of them will be reproduced in beautiful half-tones in next Sunday's Journal. Order early.

Edward Marshall